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Under the Old Flag: Recollections of Military Operations in the War for the Union, the Spanish War, the Boxer Rebellion, etc. By JAMES HARRISON WILSON, Brevet Major-General, U.S.A. In two volumes. (New York and London: D. Appleton and Company. 1912. Pp. xvi, 580; ix, 582.)

GENERAL WILSON has held important commands in three wars. In the Civil War he served on T. W. Sherman's staff in the South Atlantic campaign, McClellan's staff in the Maryland campaign, and Grant's staff "during the period of his greatest glory from the beginning of the campaign in Northern Mississippi to the end of the Campaign at Chattanooga".

He had charge of the Cavalry Bureau in Washington in the spring of 1864; commanded a division under Sheridan in the Wilderness; conducted, independently, an important raid in south-central Virginia; was with Sheridan at Winchester; and was then sent to Sherman to command the cavalry of the Military Division of the Mississippi. Grant declared he would add fifty per cent. to its effectiveness. He did. Under his leadership the cavalry distinguished itself at Franklin, and broke the Confederate left at Nashville, turning a doubtful success into an overwhelming victory. Then at the head of a force of fourteen thousand troopers, Wilson defeated Forrest, captured Selma, Montgomery, Columbus, and Macon, and ended by capturing Jefferson Davis himself. In the four years of fighting he had been brevetted five times for gallant and meritorious conduct, and had risen in rank from second lieutenant to Major-General of Volunteers.

In the Spanish War he served with the expedition to Porto Rico, and during the first occupation of Cuba commanded the Department of Matanzas and Santa Clara. In the Boxer War he served as second in command of the American contingent.

General Wilson's book is not only a very valuable contribution to military history, but a most entertaining one as well. He is a sharp critic, but he praises warmly those he regards as deserving of praise and these include himself. As has been written of Marbot, "There is no pretense of self-depreciation . . . he knows what he did is creditable to him, and does not mind in a modest way taking credit for it."

Despite the many pages devoted to Grant we are left in doubt as to Wilson's estimate of his generalship. Of Grant, the man, he gives a very real and attractive picture though he does not hesitate to refer to Grant's unfortunate habits.

Thomas, he thinks, resembled the traditional Washington in appearance, manners, and character, and was an abler general than Sherman or Sheridan. Sherman's generalship receives scant praise and Sheridan although described as "perhaps the most brilliant and certainly one of the most aggressive and successful [soldiers] on either side" was seemingly neither brilliant nor aggressive while Wilson was with him. Upton, he declares the "best all-round soldier of the day". Lee's gener-

alship and patriotism he thinks have been magnified. Stuart he considers overrated. Hampton and Forrest "were quite his equals in personal prowess and leadership, while Hampton was his superior in administration and generalship". His opinions of the leaders of more recent years are certain to be challenged, for General Wilson is a robust partizan and needs time to soften his judgments. The inaccuracies in the book are few and unimportant; but the index should be corrected and enlarged.

A History of the Presidency from 1897 to 1909. By EDWARD STANWOOD, Litt.D. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1912. Pp. ii, 298.)

MR. STANWOOD preserves in the present volume the characteristic features of his *History of the Presidency*, published in 1898 as a revised and enlarged edition of his *History of Presidential Elections*. The party platforms of 1900, 1904, and 1908 are given in full, together with brief accounts of the conventions and campaigns, tables of popular and electoral votes, and the special incidents, if any, of the Congressional count. An appendix gives the platforms of 1912. In these various respects the work leaves nothing to be desired save an adequate index, the index which is provided being singularly incomplete in the important matter of names. There are a few minor misprints: "the immediate duty of the *law*" (p. 3) should probably read *hour*; "the *cause* of the president" (p. 90) should undoubtedly read, the *course* of the president; and the name of Senator Burrows of Michigan appears (p. 169) as "Burroughs".

In some other important respects the present volume differs appreciably from its predecessors. For one thing, the accounts of the several administrations have been, by comparison, much expanded. Mr. Stanwood has not, indeed, undertaken to write a history of the United States since 1896. It is clear that what he has in mind is an exposition of the issues which operated to determine nominations and elections. He has also sought—laboriously at times, one cannot help suspecting—entire impartiality. But the elaborateness with which the presidential careers of McKinley and Roosevelt are traced takes this portion of the work somewhat beyond the limits of undisputed historical chronicle, and embarks the author upon the deep and stormy sea of contemporary politics. As Mr. Stanwood has essayed the voyage, a reviewer cannot do less than follow him.

The two features of historical development since the election of 1896 which loom largest to the contemporary observer are the changed attitude of the United States towards world politics, and the extraordinary upheaval of political sentiment and action under Mr. Roosevelt. To both of these Mr. Stanwood naturally gives positions of chief prominence, but to neither of them, I am constrained to think, does he do entire justice. Elation over the successful war with Spain, satisfaction, or at least the lack of organized dissatisfaction, with the Dingley tariff, and the